

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 01612 281815 Z

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, TS

SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA' S SPEECH ON DEMOCRACY

1. SUMMARY: BOURGUIBA DELIVERED TWO- AND A HALF HOUR SPEECH MARCH 27 TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON " DEMOCRACY". WHILE PRAISING DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN TUNISIA, PRESIDENT STRESSED HIS OWN INDISPENSABLY ROLE IN ASSURING " PERENNIALITY OF STATE". ONCE MORE INDICATED HE WOULD REMAIN PRESIDENT AS LONG AS PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE. MENTIONED BEN SALAH' S ESCAPE FOR FIRST TIME IN PUBLIC, SAYING " PERHAPS THIS WAS JUST AS WELL". CALLED ON " MISGUIDED SPIRITS" (I. E., " LIBERALS NOW IN OPPOSITION) TO RETURN TO FOLD. END SUMMARY.

BOURGUIBA' S TWO AND A HALF HOUR LECTURE ON MARCH 27 TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS VIRTUALLY ALL HIGH GOT OFFICIALS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, WAS WELL ADVERTISED IN ADVANCE AS SPEECH ON " DEMOCRACY". BOURGUIBA CERTAINLY SEEMED IN TOP PHYSICAL FORM. HIS TONE OF EGOTISM AND HIS SELF- PORTRAYAL AS INDISPENSABLE MAN MAY PROVE SOMEWHAT INDIGESTIBLE TO YOUNGER EDUCATED TUNISIANS, BUT WILL PROBABLY BE MUCH MORE ACCEPTABLE TO TUNISIAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. SPEECH CONTAINED ANOTHER LONG HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF TUNISIA' INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENTS SINCE
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 01612 281815 Z

INDEPENDENCE, WITH PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON BOURGUIBA' S OWN ESSENTIAL ROLE. HE SAID THAT TUNISIA COULD TAKE PRIDE IN BEING " FICIPANT, BUT WITHOUT ANY COMPARABLE PROVISION FOR ITALY. THE US REP REPLIED THAT THE INTENT OF ALLIED THINKING WAS SIMPLY TO KEEP THE ISSUE OF HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION OPEN.

20. THE HUNGARIAN REP SAID THAT THIS COULD ALSO BE ASSURED BY A FORMULA WHICH WOULD SAY THAT THE GROUP OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS COULD BE ENLARGED. THROUGH THE VARIANTS PUT FORTH BY THE ALLIED REPS, THE ALLIES WERE CLEARLY SEEKING ADVANCE ASSURANCE THAT HUNGARY WOULD IN FACT JOIN THE GROUP OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, AND THIS WAS AN OBVIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE EAST. THE US REP REPLIED THAT THE ALLIES WERE SEEKING TO REACH SOME WAY OF RESOLVING PRESENT PARTICIPATION ARRANGMENTS THAT WOULD NOT BE PREJUDICIAL TO FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF LISTING HUNGARY AS AN EIGHTH SPECIAL PARTICIPANT WAS IN FACT PREJUDICIAL.

21. THE HUNGARIAN REP REPEATED THAT AN ENLARGEMENT FORMULA AS ENVISAGED BY THE EAST WOULD IN FACT BE NEUTRAL. THE NETHERLANDS REP SAID THAT IT WOULD BE TOO VAGUE, AND THAT THE ALLIES CONSIDERED THAT A JURIDICAL BASIS FOR RAISING THE QUESTION OF HUNGARY, AND OF RELATED SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE FUTURE SHOULD BE CLEARLY SPELLED OUT, SO AS NOT TO PREJUDICE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS BY ANY PRESENT AGREEMENT ON HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION. HE THEN REFERRED TO KVITSINSKIY' S REMARKS ON MARCH 16, WHICH IN TURN REFERRED TO THE IDEAS ON ENLARGEMENT PUT FORTH BY USTOR, TO THE EFFECT THAT USTOR' S FORMULA WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE WEST SINCE IT WOULD KEEP OPEN THE ISSUE OF HUNGARY AS A PARTICIPANT IN FUTURE AGREEMENTS OR MEASURES, AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS LINE OF THOUGHT COULD BE SPELLED OUT BY THE EAST IN MORE CONCRETE TERMS. HE ADDED THAT THE ALLIES CONSIDERED THAT THE EAST SHOULD AGREE THAT, WHATEVER THE STATUS OF HUNGARY IS IN THE PRESENT TALKS, IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT IN SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE SECURITY

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 02505 04 OF 05 282046 Z

SITUATION.

22. US REP POINTED OUT THAT USTOR' S REASONING WOULD ALSO LEAVE THE STATUS OF THE 7 SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS TOO VAGUE. THE

HUNGARIAN REP REPLIED THAT IT SHOULD INDEED BE KEPT VAGUE, SINCE TOO MUCH PRECISION MIGHT EXCLUDE IN ADVANCE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE 11 DIRECT PARTICIPANTS MIGHT WISH TO INVITE OTHER STATES TO JOIN THOSE IN THE SPECIAL CATEGORY.

23. KHESTOV RETURNED TO THE THIRD VARIANT DESCRIBED BY THE US REP, ASKING WHERE HUNGARY WOULD BE NAMED UNDER THIS APPROACH. WOULD IT BE AMONG THE 8? THE US REP REPLIED THAT HUNGARY NEED NOT BE SIGNLED OUT IN EITHER CATEGORY OF 11 OR 7, ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE LISTED AMONG THE 19-- ALTERNATIVELY, THE CATEGORY OF 19 WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE LISTED BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.

24. KHESTOV RETURNED TO THE QUESTION OF THE FOUR CONCEPTS TO BE EMBODIED IN A STATEMENT OR STATEMENTS. IF TWO STATEMENTS WOULD BE MADE, WHICH CONCEPTS WOULD FIGURE IN WHICH STATEMENTS? US REP REPLIED THAT THE FIRST AND THE THIRD CONCEPT COULD LOGICALLY BE EMBODIED IN AN HUNGARIAN STATEMENT, WHILE THE SECOND AND FOURTH WOULD BE INCLUDED IN A WESTERN STATEMENT.

25. KHESTOV SAID THAT, BASED ON THE DISCUSSION SO FAR, THINGS WERE CLEARER THAN BEFORE. AT LEAST IT WAS NOW CLEAR NOT ONLY WHAT THE ALLIES WANTED TO DO-- THIS WAS CLEAR BEFORE-- BUT ALSO HOW THEY WISHED TO DO IT. THE QUESTION WAS, WAS THIS IN KEEPING WITH THE CONCEPT OF

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